

HAPPY NEW YEAR



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One-In-A-Million 'Jim' Nabbed by Detectives

There must be at least a million men in Southern California named "Jim," but detectives of the Torrance Police force were given the impossible job of finding the right one.

And they did. After 17 days of intensive police work, detectives Myles Hamilton and Walter Nitz, working under the direction of Captain Ernest Ashton, tracked down their "Jim."

They arrested James R. Harris, 20, of 547 E. 223 st., Friday and held him on charges of robbing Arlis R. Braswell, 18, of \$24.50 at the point of a gun on December 6.

Braswell, a sailor attached to the U.S.S. Toledo, tied up at Long Beach, had been hitchhiking on Pacific Coast hwy. the night of December 6. He told police that two young men had picked him up, and, after driving a short way, pulled over to the side of the highway in Torrance. The driver, Braswell said, poked a gun into his ribs.

"This is a stickup," the driver said. "How much money do you have? Give it to me." Braswell told police he handed his wallet over to the driver, and stayed in the car until he was ordered out near a farm field.

Police began hunting for the two young men and the car as soon as they received a

report of the robbery. But they had no luck.

FIRST CLUE
Two days later, however, Torrance detectives were called by San Pedro police. A young boy and his mother, San Pedro officers said, had some information about the robbery. Hamilton and Nitz, assigned to the case by Captain Ashton, saw the mother and son and learned that the son had been involved in the robbery.

For two days, mother and son had been trying to find the sailor so that they could return some of the money that had been taken from him. Unsuccessful, they had finally turned to the police.

The mother said her son had related the story of the robbery to her when he had come home. The boy had been shocked by the crime. He had had no idea that his friend with whom he had gone for a drive was armed and planned a robbery.

While he described his companion to police, the boy had no knowledge of his friend's address or his last name. His companion was a chance acquaintance and was known to him only as "Jim."

That was the first clue Hamilton and Nitz had to work on. They began from there. They questioned the teen-ager further and learned

that his companion had off-handedly said he was staying in a hotel. That was the second clue.

CHECK HOTELS
Hamilton and Nitz began checking hotels in and around Torrance. In one hotel, they found that a young man named Jim Harris had left a day earlier. He answered the description given them, and he drove the kind of car Braswell had described. That was their third clue.

With the full name of their suspect, Hamilton and Nitz began a careful check of other friends of the youth who had been with Harris. They questioned 30 to 35 young men and pieced together a more complete description of Harris.

A chance remark by one of the young men gave Hamilton and Nitz their fourth and final clue. The youth said he lived near Harris, and the detectives followed him home.

For three days they watched the home occupied by Harris' family.

On the fourth day, they arrested Harris and brought him to the Torrance Police Station to be confronted by Braswell and Harris' companion the night Braswell was robbed. The two identified Harris, and Hamilton and Nitz had their one-in-a-million Jim.

LOCAL STORE ROBBED OF \$2800 IN YULE RECEIPTS

Hold Youth For Theft Of \$1000

A teen-age employee of a local restaurant was arrested by Torrance police Friday and charged with the theft of close to \$1000 from the restaurant in the past eight months.

The youth, a juvenile, was detained for county juvenile authorities. He was charged with stealing money from other employees and patrons of the restaurant, and tapping the till at the restaurant.

The boy was caught in the restaurant office Friday. Police said he had been taking some of the restaurant's receipts. When questioned, the youth admitted an eight-month long binge of thefts and told police he had been taking money from the pocketbooks of patrons and employees of the restaurant.

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NEW DIRECTORS of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce are, from left to right, Dr. Howard Wood, Arthur Otsea, vice-president of the California Bank, and C. N. Rucker, plant superintendent of the Union Carbide Chemicals Co.

One other director will be chosen in a run off between George A. Bradford, president of the George A. Bradford Co., and William Zappas, publisher of the Torrance Press.

Money Was Ready for Armed Car

Christmas receipts totaling \$2800 were stolen from the Certi-Bond store at 501 S. Arlington Thursday morning, just a few minutes before the receipts were scheduled to be picked up by an armored car service.

The money had been removed from the Certi-Bond safe by Rex Green, manager of the store, a little after noon Thursday, and had been placed under the counter in front of the store, Green told police.

For five minutes, Green waited on some customers. When the armored car guard came in to take the receipts, Green discovered the disappearance of the money bag.

Captain Ernest Ashton, chief of detectives of the Torrance Police force, was called to the scene by Green immediately after Green discovered the loss.

The money had been placed in the Certi-Bond safe over the Christmas holiday. Green opened the store a few minutes after 12 Thursday in order to have the money ready for the armored car truck which was to take the receipts to the bank for deposit.

Playgrounds Continue Yule Activities

The Torrance Recreation Department, boasting one of the largest staffs in its history, started the second week of its Christmas vacation program in 16 school and six parks, supervised by well-qualified and trained personnel from the department.

The parks open at 9 a.m. and close at sundown. The school playgrounds open at 10 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. All areas will be open Monday through Saturday except Wednesday, New Year's Day.

All the areas are conducting special games and tournaments on their playgrounds. In addition to the regular activities, the second week of the program will include special activities in crafts, story telling, movie and New Year's parties. The following special activities have been announced by the department:

Elsie L. Pestoff, who has conducted story telling sessions for the department, is teaching the boys and girls practical library skills. From the group of children, a librarian is selected whose responsibility it is to select the books to be read.

El Retiro—is conducting a novel experience for the people at that area. On Tuesday, December 31, the supervisors have planned a noon-day meal called "Glutton's Delight." The main dish is to be a stew and the cost of 10 cents for each "Glutton" is also a delight. Games will precede and follow the meal. Everyone is invited.

Lloyd Harline, one of El Retiro's area directors, is now giving instruction in tennis every day from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. He expects to really be under way this week.

Walteria Park's area director, Frank Tyrrell, is conducting a basketball clinic for interested children at his area Monday, December 30 at 2 p.m. The fundamentals and techniques of basketball will be taught at this time for future use on the playground.

Walteria Park also announced a big surprise for boys and girls in that area, Tuesday, December 31.

Hillside School playground's people are getting ready for a new year's party, Tuesday, December 31 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Fifteen cents is being collected by the Recreation supervisors for ice cream, cookies, punch, and candy. Everyone is invited.

Ad Plays Santa Claus

Some child had a joyful Christmas as a result of a classified ad in the Torrance Press.

A train, a rocking horse and a record player were sold by Mrs. Florence Brisbin of 25634 Walnut st., Lomita and ended up under someone's Christmas tree.

What you no longer have use for may be exactly what some Press reader needs. A Torrance Press classified ad can help you find a customer for possessions you wish to sell. Call FA 8-2345 and place an ad today.

Ambulances Are Brightened Up

County ambulances will soon be painted yellow and white so that they will be distinctive and easily recognizable, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn announced this week.

The bright, new color scheme replaces the dull, dismal present gray color of the ambulances, which Supervisor Hahn termed "depressing."

Mental Health Clinic Formed

Ten South Bay citizens signed incorporation papers to form the South Bay - Torrance Mental Health Clinic Association this week. Dr. Leon Wallace and Dr. Stanley Geller, local psychiatrists will direct and supervise the clinic staff who will furnish therapy for children and adults of the area, who are self-referred or otherwise directed to its services.

Mayor Albert Isen of Torrance and Emerald L. Olson, president of the Board of Directors of the clinic were among those affixing signatures to the legal document.

"Mental health is the number one problem of the South Bay Torrance area as it is in all communities," Olson said. "It is the duty of all responsible citizens to help alleviate this problem. Through the local clinic, local persons can be served without having to travel many miles out of town."

Dr. John Grubbs, Torrance, president of the South Bay Branch, Los Angeles County Medical Association, said: "This is a forward step much needed in this area."

Fire Damages 2-Family Unit Christmas Day

Two Torrance families found themselves without homes on Christmas after an early morning fire had damaged the duplex in which they lived.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Coulson of 1754 Andree Ave. and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gish and their 10-year-old son of 1754 1/2 Andree Ave. lost their homes, but not their Christmas presents, all of which were undamaged by the blaze.

The Coulsons, who are expectant parents, were not at home when the fire started in their kitchen around the hot water heater at 2:15 a.m. Christmas morning.

The Gish family hurried from the house after being awakened by the smell of smoke and the crackling of the fire.

Firemen fought the blaze for more than three hours after being called by a neighbor, A. F. Palmer, 1751 Andree Ave. who was awakened by the barking of a dog.

Loss of personal property was slight. A few items of furniture and clothing were water damaged. Tarpaulins thrown over the furnishings prevented more serious damage.

Fire Marshal Robert Lucas estimated damage to the house amounted to \$5500.

CITY RECORD MARRED AS CRASH INJURES 7

Torrance's holiday safety record was shattered Friday by a post-Christmas accident in which seven people were injured.

Ernest J. Johnson, 26, of 325 Calle Miramar, Hollywood Riviera, was flung from his car following a collision at Palos Verdes Blvd. and Calle Miramar with a vehicle driven by Miss Jesse A. Brown, 19, of 2311 Rockefeller Lane, Redondo Beach.

Johnson, his wife, Ella J. Johnson, 26, and their 11-month old son, Joseph, miraculously escaped serious injury. The crash completely battered their car, which traveled 104 feet from the point of impact and ended up on a pant r in front of 350 Palos Verdes Blvd.

Minor injuries were suffered by Miss Brown as well as by the three passengers in her car, Janet E. Yellick, 14, and Richard Martinez, 20, both of Redondo Beach, and Sandra Quinn, 15, of Landwale.

The injured were taken to Harbor General hospital for treatment.

Miss Brown told police that

she was traveling about 55 miles an hour as she approached the intersection. Her brakes failed and she was unable to stop. She was cited and arrested for reckless driving.

Another Torrance family's holiday was cut short when their car crashed through a barricade on the Hollywood

Freeway and overturned. The accident occurred at 3 a.m. when Leland Courtwright, 33, of 20609 Kenwood Ave., his wife, June, 23, and son, Larry, 3, were on their way to spend Christmas in northern California. Mrs. Courtwright's right arm and right leg were broken. Her husband and son were unhurt.

PRESS 'FIRST BABY OF 1958' CONTEST IS ON

The Torrance Press' annual New Years baby contest, in which prizes are awarded to the first baby born in the city in 1958, awaits the ringing out of the old year.

And when the last bell of 1957 is tolled, the race is on. At least 25 prizes, ranging from layettes to photographs, will be awarded by Torrance's merchants to the city's first new resident of the year. One prize will even be handed to the father, and one will be awarded as a consolation to the baby who finishes last in the contest.

Rules of the Torrance Press contest are very simple. Parents need merely fill out the entry blanks on Page 8 and bring or mail in the forms on or before Monday, January 6. Winners will be announced in the January 9 Torrance Press.

Offer Art Classes for Children

Moni Gillett, noted South Bay artist, will begin a series of art classes for boys and girls between the ages of six and 15 years through the efforts of the Torrance Art Group in cooperation with the Torrance Recreation Department. Classes will begin January 11 and continue through February 15 at the Victor E. Benstead Plunge.

A registration fee of \$5 for the entire series of six lessons will be charged. Children between the ages of six and nine years will meet from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and the 10 and older group will meet from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Applications are now available at the Torrance Recreation Department, 3031 Torrance Blvd. Enrollment is limited to a maximum of 20 students in each class.

Miss Gillett, a native of Australia, has lived in the United States for 30 years and has her B.A. from the University of Tasmania, Australia.

Bids Called For Western Ave Extension

Western ave. will become a continuous thoroughfare extending from Los Feliz Blvd. on the north to Paseo del Mar in the Harbor district on completion of a contract on which bids have been called by the County Board of Public Works.

The project calls for grading a roadway from 9th to 19th Streets in San Pedro, paving, installing curbs, gutters and storm drains and constructing a street lighting system.

The first stage of the project was started last July when the board awarded a \$390,506 contract for the widening and realignment of Western avenue north of O'Farrell street to 9 street.

Western avenue now extends on the south to a point near Pacific Coast Highway and the new project will extend the thoroughfare several miles to the ocean.

Town Topics

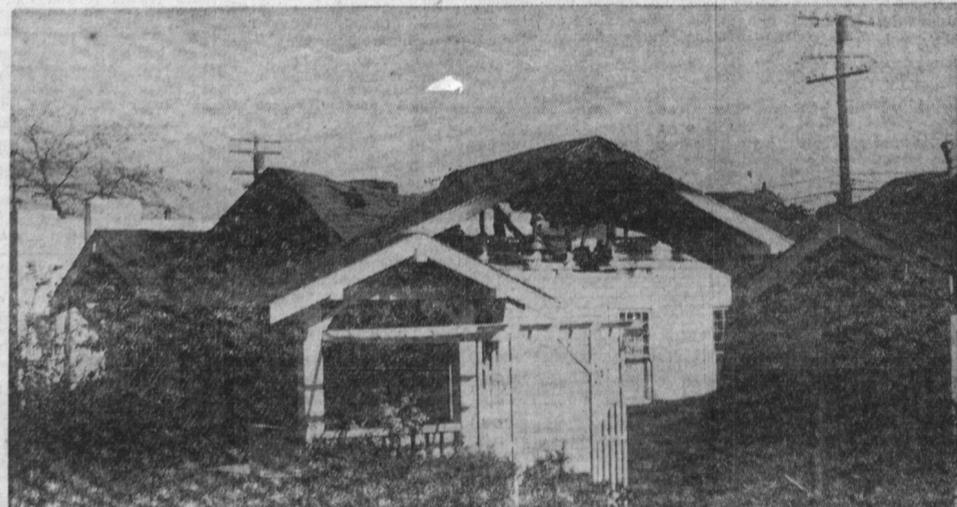
SPECIAL buses will leave from Torrance at 7 a.m. Wednesday to Pasadena and the Tournament of Roses parade. Buses will leave from the depot, park on the Pasadena City College grounds and make the return trip after the parade. Cost of the round trip ticket is \$2.75. Grandstand seats in the Rose Bowl are \$5 per person. Reservations should be made immediately.

A SCORE of volunteers turned out to help decorate the city's entry in the Tournament of Roses Parade. Mrs. Victor Benstead, chairman of the group, festooning the float with flowers, was not only pleased with the turnout, she was downright relieved. She had begun to think that she would have to work day and night to do the job with the help of a couple of other members of Torrance garden clubs.

LONGREN Aircraft Co. may be starting a nation-wide movement with its long weekend plan. According to Christina Wentworth, vice president of the up and coming company, Longren associates (that's who they call everyone who works in Longren's plants) will not report to work the first Monday of every month. They'll work the following Saturday instead. The plan gives the associates eight three-day weekends, and four four-day weekends.

"It all started with the wish by our associates to have a long weekend as often as possible without any loss in pay to them or production time to the company," Mrs. Wentworth explained. Ernie Roach, assistant superintendent of Longren's plant at the Torrance Airport, devised the scheme.

"We are confident that it will pay good-will dividends when a working man can enjoy a rich man's weekend ever so often," Mrs. Wentworth said.



DAMAGE of approximately \$5,500 was estimated as a result of the Christmas morning fire in two homes at 1754 Andree st. The family of Ralph Gish was driven into the street by the fire that started at 2:15 Christmas morning. Mr. and Mrs. Don-

ald Coulson, living in the attached dwelling at 1754 1/2 Andree were not at home when the fire started in their kitchen. The fire, concentrated in the attics of both houses, was fought for three hours by Torrance firemen.